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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

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1. The Farmers' Cooperative (JZD), at Kvakovce (R 49/E 66), in the Vranov nad Toplou district, was established in 1951. In August 1953, only 16 of the local farmers were not JZD members. They were smallholders with a maximum holding of six hectares. JZD members were allowed to keep only a one-half-hectare strip of land to till privately. In about July 1953, there was a tendency among members of the JZD to leave the cooperative and it was believed that the JZD would probably break down by the end of 1953 if nothing was done about the situation. 50X1-HUM
2. The chairman of the Kvakovce JZD was Jura! Humenik [REDACTED]
3. All attempts to introduce Soviet farming methods in the JZD failed because of the violent protest of the members.
4. Members of the JZD were paid according to the amount of work done, expressed in terms of "work units". One work unit equalled 1.80 Kcs. People generally earned very little and many of them failed to make one work unit a day.
5. No annual holidays were granted to JZD members. Members were entitled to the normal National Health Insurance, as were industrial workers, and if they wished they could also be insured privately. The majority of the independent farmers who still exist in the village are insured privately against fire and accident.
6. The system of annuities (vymenek) formerly paid to retired farmers, partly in cash and partly in kind, has been abolished by the Communists. JZD members were entitled to old age payments, while private farmers depended on the kindness of their relatives.

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7. The SNB had confiscated all private threshing machines at Kvakovce and handed them over to the nearest Machinery Station, at Vranov. Independent farmers did not borrow any machinery at all from the Station; they used horse teams and primitive tools. Most of the agricultural machinery at the Vranov Station was in very bad shape. Only the tractors which were new were in working order, while the old ones were not even repaired, because no repair parts were available for them.
8. Because of the shortage of building material, the existing farm buildings were not repaired and no new ones were being built. All building material in private possession was confiscated by the Local National Committee and the only way to secure building material was to steal it and perform the repairs in secret. Officially, one could apply to the Local National Committee, which forwarded the request to the commissariat having jurisdiction - either a Commissariat of Agriculture or a Commissariat of Domestic Trade. The application had to be approved by the Local National Committee. the usual answer to a request was that none was available.
9. JZD members were slightly better off than independent farmers. For instance, when their sons joined the armed forces they received subsidies from the government. Also, when JZD members reached the age of 66 they were entitled to old-age insurance payments, while private farmers had no such advantages.
10. A spirit of solidarity had developed among the independent farmers in the area, and they helped each other in the field work, in fulfilling delivery quotas and in many other ways. The local Communists disliked this attitude of mutual loyalty a great deal and they spied on the independent farmers to find out what subjects they discussed and whether they retained agricultural products which were supposed to be turned in. If a farmer did this, it was sufficient reason to have him arrested as a "kulak". The morale of the local Communists was very low. They continuously fought for better positions, stole JZD property and denounced each other afterwards. In case of war the majority of the Communists would be found to be unreliable.
11. Health conditions were quite satisfactory. no cases of tuberculosis, cancer or venereal disease in the village and its neighborhood.
12. No private flour mill, sand pits, stone quarries or forests existed in the neighborhood of Kvakovce. Firewood for private consumption was, for instance, allocated to individuals by the National Committee, the annual allocation being two wagon loads per individual. Each individual had to fell the trees for himself and also provide the transportation.
13. There was a great shortage of labor at Kvakovce because many agricultural workers, especially the young ones, found jobs in factories earlier, when the people were still relatively free to choose their own occupations. This is now impossible, because any change of employment must be approved by the Local National Committee. Permission to change employment is granted only if the applicant signs a one- or two-year work contract to work in the uranium mines at Jachymov or if he agrees to settle there permanently. Even under this condition, he is not always allowed to leave, owing to the desperate shortage of labor in the country.

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